



Dear Parents

Let us hope for more settled and spring like weather as we shed the wet and windy conditions of late! It is a really busy time in the school calendar with a number of activities and events underway in support of the children's learning.

A sporting update

'Well done' to all our young athletes who have represented the school recently. The Years 5 and 6 football finished winners of the Stroud schools 7-a-side competition....a fantastic result!

Our Tag Rugby teams enjoyed a super afternoon at Leonard Stanley as part of the preliminary rounds of the area championships. Thank you to all the parents and helpers who continue to support our school teams. A special thanks to Mr Thomas (Luke's dad) and Mr Organ (Tom's dad) who give their time and expertise throughout the year.

We wish all our cross country runners the best of luck when they compete in the Stroud schools events next week (10th /11th March) at Stratford Park.... 'Go for it!'

Not guilty m'lud!

Our mock trial team are hoping for this verdict when they defend the 'Case Against Darcy Granger' on Friday 7th March at Ebley House. Miss Gulliford and the team have been working hard, establishing the facts, constructing their arguments and preparing questions for their 'opponents' from The British School, Wotton, who are acting for the prosecution. The children have already visited Stroud Magistrates Court and the police station to understand the roles and procedures involved in real life cases. Serving Magistrates and police officers will be in attendance during the 'mock trial' to evaluate the children's contributions and to ensure all correct proceedings are adhered to. This valuable experience provides the children with a unique insight into the workings of our judicial system. We will await the court's decision!

'Yokoso Uguisudani' (*Welcome to our friends from Uguisudani School*)

We extend a warm welcome to our friends from Japan who visit us this Thursday (6th March) as part of a cultural exchange. The morning will be spent sharing ideas in planned workshops, culminating in a special Japanese dance presentation given by our visitors. I am aware that some families from Eastington are also supporting this exciting exchange project by looking after students from Uguisudani during their stay in the UK. A special thanks to Masano Hedges (Emmie and Mae's mum) who has been instrumental in making this initiative a reality for all the young people involved.

Young Author's day

As part of our whole school focus on writing we are planning a 'Young author's day' on Tuesday 1st April. Individual classes will explore an aspect of writing they are current working towards (narrative texts, poetry, non-fiction, descriptive writing etc.) and use the extended time to craft their ideas and deepen their understanding. We are hoping to display samples of work in the hall for everyone to enjoy.

Sport relief Day (non uniform day) Friday 21st March

We are once again supporting this national event by asking the children to wear any sporting attire on Friday 21st March and bring a £1.00 donation in aid of this worthy cause. Mrs Parsons is hoping to wear her Welsh rugby jersey, however, this may depend upon the result this forthcoming Sunday!!

Years 5 and 6 Swimming

A reminder that swimming sessions for Years 5 and 6 commence on Thursday 13th March at Stratford Park Leisure Centre. The children will be working towards national levels and skills badges. Thank you for the voluntary contributions received so far — it really does make a difference!

(continued overleaf)

School meals September 2014

Firstly, thank you all those parents of pupils who will be in Years 3-6 from September 2014, who have responded to the hot meals questionnaire sent home recently. As you are aware the government announced that every child in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 will receive a free school lunch from September 2014. The governors at Eastington have proposed that this provision is extended to pupils in Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 by using the 'parent pay' facility. Results collated to date show that approximately 50% of parents of pupils in Key Stage 2 (juniors) would be interested in paying for a hot lunch. Whilst there is likely to be fluctuations with take up on a daily and weekly basis, the school meals contractor considers this a viable option. A reminder that the closing date for all questionnaires is Friday 14th March. I have organised for representatives from Edwards and Ward (Glos LA school meals contractor) to be in the school hall during the parents consultation evenings next week (12th/13th March) from 3.30pm onwards. This should provide an opportunity for parents to 'see' sample meals and ask any relevant questions about the service. It is important to stress, however, that parents may wish to continue to provide a packed lunch as they do now. Further details will follow regarding the 'parent pay' facility for families in Key Stage 2 and how the menu and selection service is to be co-ordinated.

Extra eggs...for the Eastington Easter Draw

The Grand Easter Egg Draw is only 22 school days away....and we need your help! We are asking for your donations of chocolate Easter eggs to make this the best yet! Last year we 'raffled' 98 eggs—the target for 2014 is 100. As the shops begin to stock up for Easter your donations can be brought to the front entrance in time for the Grand Draw after school on the final day of term. Raffle tickets will be with you shortly. Many thanks.

Thinking ahead

I have attached a copy of the 2014/14 academic year for your information. This will also be posted on the school website for future reference.

Finally, I look forward to seeing you during the scheduled parents consultation evenings or at our forthcoming events.

Yours sincerely

M J Strang
Headteacher



'Aiming high.....together!'